

We are at the home of Mr. Earl Carrillo and it's August 4, 1998.

I am showing a picture of in inside of one of the cars.

I: Do you remember how many people were already on the car when you got on in the morning?

EC: The seats were pretty well taken up especially during school time. We even had ticket books that we paid our fair with. All of Forestville and Sebastopol, they picked them up and hauled them in because that's the only transportation to Sebastopol unless you walked or rode a bicycle or horse.

I: Would you say that there was 50 people or half full of capacity?

EC: I would say at least half full. At least 25 people. You didn't have trouble finding a seat.

I: When you went to Analy High School do you remember if any wealthier kids or any of the teachers, or principles have cars?

EC: I think I had one of them myself; it was a Model T Ford. Then the gas ran into them with gravity feed and if you got on a steep hill it wouldn't get any gas to the engine. You would have to turn around and back up to get the gas to flow into the engine. They only had two speeds, high and low. You had to push a peddle in for the low speed and for reverse. There were bands on the drive shaft.

I: When you came back you were in Merchant Marines, was that 1923?

EC: I think it was 25 when I went in because I had worked in a bakery from 23 until 25. Then I went to sea for....

I: When you got back did you notice what percentage of population owned cars? Was it 10%, 20%, 30% or 50% or more?

EC: I doubt if it was over 10%. I'll tell you what I can remember. I was just a kid – teenager when cars came out and I was interested in them. I learned to drive a car before I had two older brothers and farmers, I taught both my older brothers how to drive.

I: Do you remember that fight you were in with Jack Dempsey? How hold was Jack then?

EC: He must have been in his early 30's.

I: Was he tall?

EC: He was well built, a husky fellow.

I: Do you remember, was he keeping himself in shape pretty well?

EC: In perfect shape, as a kid you looked up to him. I've even got Analy Azalea 1920 that had him in it. He would come up – we had boxing and wrestling. We were the first high school

that had that. That was quite an event. They turned over a packinghouse in Sebastopol for us to have the show on.

Lester Hines was his opponent.

I: This was the station in Graton (looking at a photo) waiting for the train. Notice all the women are all over on one side and the men are on the other.

EC: I wouldn't be surprised if that isn't the hatchery across the railroad tracks and they moved it up to the main street where the Graton flower show was. That's where it originally was, a two-story hatchery building. They hatched eggs in there.

I: Do you think they used the train to haul the eggs off?

EC: Well you know the chicken business was quite a business. Up into the early 20's. There were chickens and berries. People made a living off a couple hundred chickens then.

I: Ok, here's number 26 Petaluma & Santa Rosa locomotive #504 in 1926. What is this all about (looking at a photo) ?

EC: This was your hot line, it was electric. Instead of having a rotor like they had on the passenger lines, this moved back and forth and got the power back to the engine. Where on the others they had a pulley wheel. That's what they called a trolley. Instead of the trolley they had this thing.

I: I think that's what they called a pantograph.

EC: I don't know, but those were freight cars. Passenger cars had a trolley on both ends. All they did they hooked from back to the other and it made electricity.

I: This is a photo taken back in 1910 and this is the Gravenstein Apple Show in Sebastopol. The thing I like about transportation, you've got the electric train here and in the back of that in the center you've got an automobile and here you've got a horse and buggy.

EC: I don't know what year it was, but the Northwestern Steam Line had a track into Sebastopol. I know in 1915 they had a fair in San Francisco, and we took the electric train to Sebastopol, took the steam train to Santa Rosa and then went down to Sausalito on the steam train across the ferry into San Francisco.

I: This is a picture of the original depot station, I'm not sure when this was taken.

EC: I don't know when they built that.

I: It was 1918.

EC: That's when they built that? Where the museum is now? Well before that it was a big long building that ran down from Barnett St. down along Petaluma Avenue and the railroad track was between the station and So. Main Street.

I: If you remember anything about WWI, you would have been only about 12 or 13 years old. Do you remember when the war started? Do you remember any family discussions; do you think your family was in favor of American going into war?

EC: Well they didn't have much to say. The politicians shoved the young people into the war just like they do yet.

I: So, they were opposed to the war?

EC: No not really. They made it appear that the enemy was a bad guy and we just went along with doing what was right.

I: Did you know anyone who was a soldier or sailor that was in the war?

EC: My brothers, one was in the Army and one was in the Navy all during WWI.

I: What were their names?

EC: Lawrence Carrillo was my older brother and Gene Carrillo was my younger brother. He went into the Navy when I don't think he was old enough to sign up. He got a stranger off the street to act as his guardian to even join the Navy. He was in San Francisco at that time. He must have been just a teenager. That was 1918, see I was 12. Gene was six years older than I was.

I: Did he come back then?

EC: He served in the Navy all during the war and my older brother went to France just about the time that things began slowing down. He was headed out to the front line when he got sick or something and had to go to the hospital. He didn't even get to the front lines. He served in France for several months.

I: He didn't actually see any fighting?

EC: No, but he served his time. He was in Oregon for awhile and then down in Florida for awhile before he went to France.

I: Thinking of the family here, did they have any produce like a victory garden? Do you remember that they had those victory gardens?

EC: Everybody had their own gardens, chickens, cows, which was just a natural thing for us country people.

I: I mean regarding for the war effort. Did you raise vegetables and give them?

EC: I don't remember doing anything more than for our own existence.

I: What was your mother's name?

EC: My mother's name was Elizabeth Meyer.

I: Was she a native here?

EC: She was a native; she was born west of Petaluma. But her folks were from Alsace Lorraine. That's between France and Germany.

I: Well that was what the WWII was fought over.

EC: Yea, well that's where all the early wars were. One year it would be Germany and one year it would be France.

From what I heard her grandparents didn't even know each other until they migrated to America and then they met here and married.

I: What about your families thoughts on women's suffrage. Was your mom in favor of that or was opposed?

EC: She never did say.

I: Were there more train riders in the morning or in the evening?

EC: Evidently there were because you had those that were going to work and others to school. So I think that it was about even.

I: You had the Crown Bakery?

EC: I had the Sebastopol Bakery, but I worked for the Royal Bakery for 8 years before I went into business.

I: So you worked for someone before. Did you own the Sebastopol Bakery?

EC: I owned in from 33 until 46.

I: Did you pay rent to the building owner?

EC: Yes, it was a McNear from Petaluma.

I: As far as the products that you sold in the bakery, did you sell mostly breads, rolls or cakes, or cookies?

EC: When I first started out I had a wholesale and I sold bread and sweet dough's and stuff like that. Then when WWII came on they rationed everything. Like shortening, sugar. I quite the wholesale route and I went to more cookies, cakes and pastry.

I: Did you know the people you sold to?

EC: I knew them all by first name. Sometime some movie actor would come through town and the counter girl would say so and so came into the bakery.

I: Did you sell anything else besides cookies, cakes, and breads?

EC: During the war when things were tough I could get bacon from some of the wholesale places like Swift & Co. I generally did that for customers.

I: Now I'm going to read some names of movie stars and you tell me which you like. Zaza Gabor, Erol Flyn, Clark Gable. Which of those are your favorite?

EC: Well all of those and then later on Fred McMurray, Leo Carrillo.

I: How was he related to you?

EC: A Cousin of my fathers.

I never met him personally but whenever he came to Santa Rosa he would visit my aunt. So they claimed they were first cousins.

I: Do you remember in May of 1927 there was a man named Charles Lindbergh. Do you remember, where you happy or sad at the time?

EC: Quite a few people started all that. I remember a guy they called Oneway Corrigan, he started out and ended up in England or someplace.

I: Were you happy that they flew to Paris?

EC: Yes, they were developing that. The first time they ever flew was the Wright Bros. in 1903 I think.

I: The is a politics question, I'll warn you. Was the New Deal good or bad for west county for people here. Do you think it helped or not?

EC: I think it did. Like Roosevelt, I never did vote for him, but I think he did some good. I think we got to thank him for our Social Security. My opinion of politicians are not very high.

I: What kinds of cars did you own.

EC: The first car I had was a 1912 Mitchell, it was a right hand drive and a big four-cylinder car and I was just a kid. Everybody said it was too much of a car for me. They guy who sold it to me said he could get me a Model T. So we got one, I think it was a 1917 or 1918 model. I got it in about 1919 or 1920 and I kept that until 1925 and I bought a brand new model T, I think I paid \$800 or less than \$1000.

I: The new one you bought, was it a two door?

EC: It was a three door. It didn't even have a driver's door, you had to climb over the side to get into. It had a running board. But it had two doors on the back and one door in the front.

I: You didn't have a passenger door?

EC: No, on the drivers side, because of the emergency brake.

I: Did you notice that there were better roads, did they improve the roads in the 20's?

EC: It must have been after that; there were any paved road. Even when I was going to high school they were digging up the roads getting ready to pave it.

I: This is the picture taken of the railway. This is the Main Street, Sebastopol and you can see they are digging out, that's a crew and it's 1910 and it's all mud. Look at the mud.

EC: I can remember it must have been around 1919 or 1920 that I went to school with the Scheidecker's and they had the road all torn up down by Molino's Corner it was clay and we had to get out and push the Ford through that every morning. I went to school with them, it was Al Scheidecker and Louie Scheidecker is his younger brother. They used to stop here and pick me up.

I: I'm going to show you a picture of the Petaluma Car Barn in 1904.

EC: Well I don't remember much about Petaluma.

I: This is a picture of the Electric Hotel in Forestville. Does that ring a bell to you. Did you ever go in there?

EC: That must have been off the main drag, people came off the train from this way and get down to the lower part of Forestville. And Hwy 116 was up at the main part. And this was down below that.

I: This are all old pictures around 1910, but I just wanted you to get an idea of things. This is outside Petaluma. This one is of Sebastopol; we don't know when this was taken. It looks like the depot is not there.

EC: This is the depot here. This is Barnett Street.

I: This is the first one, before the one we have now.

EC: There was a long building along Petaluma Avenue, this is a Petaluma Car or the Forestville Car. That was down Main Street and the Santa Rosa Car made the turn. This was the depot here. This was evidently the powerhouse.

I: So the depot set back there on Petaluma Avenue?

END OF SIDE ONE

I: This building, the one in the background, is this the depot.

EC: That must be Barnett St. and the depot ran along parallel with So. Main and the track to Santa Rosa and made a turn across the Lagoon where this went down south Main and then it switched over Petaluma Avenue where it went on to Cunningham, Hessel and down that way.

I: Were these building there?

EC: This was a hotel.

I: Did you every shoot any pool there?

EC: There was an Italian Restaurant; I think the guys name was Poggi. When Jack Dempsey came up he had a big long table and we all ate dinner in that restaurant. That was just across and then the apple tent they set up where the post office is, that was all a vacant lot. But that crick that comes out of Ives Park come right down along in here and that hotel and restaurant was right in there.

I: This is the Pressey Station.

EC: I don't even remember, that was on the electric?

I: That's close to Petaluma.

Here's a picture of John McNear of Petaluma.

EC: He's the one who owned the building that I rented from. In fact I got a letter that was invited to his retirement. I never got down it.

I: This picture here, this is the last train from Forestville to Sebastopol. The date was 1931. Do you remember this building here?

EC: That's the bank building on South Main and Bodega Avenue.

I: What was the original bank that was there?

EC: Analy Savings Bank was on the other corner. Walter Monroe was the president of that bank, but I don't recall what they called it. That bank had a clock on the corner of the building. I think they tore that off in later years.

I: Someone said that was the Bank of America.

EC: Well the Bank of America was the Bank of Italy before they called it the Bank of America. I don't think they were even in town. It was this bank the Analy Savings Bank and Swain was the guy who had the Analy Savings Bank and Monroe had the other bank.

The tape is stopped and resumes mid interview...

EC: The storage place and when I got back and we got it back out.

I: What year that you went into her Merchant Marines?

EC: That was in 1925.

I: And what did you do with the Model T?

EC: I stored, and they started making Model A's in 1928, well I traded the Model T in and I got the Model A.

I: It was a better car.

EC: Well if they would have put a couple more cylinders on that at that time then it would have been one of the best cars on the market. Then I switched to Chevrolet's because they were 6 cylinders and I think I bought the first one of the first ones of those in the 30's.

I: Can you tell me, your two cents. Which one of these governors did the best job in California? Ronald Regan, Pat Brown or Goodwin Night?

EC: I never did think much of Pat Brown. I'd say Regan.

I: I've just shown pictures of Scopes. And this is a picture of Clarence Darrow. And he was Scopes lawyer and this is William Jennings Bryant in the middle in this shot. And he was representing the State. Do you remember your family talking about that?

EC: My mother was never very interested in politics.

I: Do you think that high school kids should learn about evolution or should that not be apart of the school?

EC: I don't know what to say about that. I personally feel that religion is right next to politics. I think that they've made a racket about religion.

I believe that everybody has a right to their own way of thinking.

I: Well if you have any more thoughts you want to add just give me a call.

END OF TAPE.